

In this response, Applicants: (i) traverse the §103(a) rejections to claims 1-20; and (ii) concurrently file a Notice of Appeal. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Regarding independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 20, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as specified in M.P.E.P. §2143.

As set forth therein, M.P.E.P. §2143 states that three requirements must be met to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited combination must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. While it is sufficient to show that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by showing that one of the requirements has not been met, Applicants respectfully believe that none of the requirements have been met.

As pointed out in Applicants' previous response dated January 13, 2003, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein, the present invention, for example as recited in independent claim 1, defines a processor-based method for use in analyzing non-fully structured data which is associated with one or more events, comprising the following steps. At least a portion of the non-fully structured data is parsed according to one or more parsing rules to convert the at least a portion of non-fully structured data to structured data. Presentation operations are provided which are respectively able to provide a presentation of at least a portion of the non-fully structured data, format at least a portion of the structured data to provide a presentation of a graphical representation of the at least a portion of structured data, and format at least a portion of the structured data to provide a presentation of a summary representation of the at least a portion of structured data. Data associated with two or more of the presentations is coordinated, when desired, to enable a coordinated analysis of the data. Independent claim 9 defines a system-based invention having similar limitations, while independent claim 12 and independent claim 20 respectively define an apparatus-based invention and an article of manufacture-based invention having similar limitations.

Lauer is directed to a signaling network management system for converting network events into standard form and then correlating the standard form events with topology and maintenance

information. The alleged APA on page 2 of Applicants' specification refers to mutually exclusive data viewing approaches, i.e., viewing raw data, viewing summary information, and viewing graphical displays. Rabenhorst is directed to a multidimensional data-based graphical tool referred to as "Diamond."

First, Applicants assert that no motivation or suggestion exists to combine Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst. For at least this reason, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Motivation to combine cannot come from the Applicants' own specification. This is impermissible hindsight. In fact, Applicants' specification points out the very deficiencies from which approaches such as those taught by Lauer and Rabenhorst (Diamond) suffer.

Applicants' specification at page 2, line 18, through page 4, line 7 (the source of the alleged APA) describes three different, but mutually exclusive, ways to analyze event logs, i.e, viewing raw data, viewing summary information, and viewing graphical displays. As pointed out, each of them has its own advantages. Directly reading the textual messages provides the most detailed information of event messages. The aggregated event analysis provides a nice scaling property and shows summarization. The event plot can reveal event patterns and relationship among events. Most available products for analyzing a log file specialize on one type of log file. Unfortunately, all of these special log analyzers only support summarization analysis. None of them can be used to visualize event messages and/or see original messages. On the other hand, there are many general graphical tools. These tools aim to support either graphical analysis of numerical data or aggregated level summarization. However, none of them provide both types of analysis. In addition, these tools usually only take structured data as inputs and can not handle textual data directly.

Further, Applicants' specification points out that there are many general graphical tools, such as Diamond, Data explorer, SAS, PowerPlay, etc. These tools aim to support either graphical analysis of numerical data, such as Diamond, Data explorer, SAS, etc., or aggregated level summarization such as PowerPlay and other OLAP (On Line Analytical Process) products. However, none of them provide both types of analysis. In addition, these tools usually only take structured data as inputs and can not handle textual data directly.

Therefore, as the specification explains, it would be highly desirable to provide systems and methods which integrate different analysis approaches, thus providing a user with the capability and flexibility to perform multiple types of analysis on raw data for event management purposes. This is what the claimed invention is directed toward.

Despite the Examiner's contention, there is nothing in Lauer nor Rabenhorst that would suggest motivation to yield the integrated presentation and analysis approach of the claimed invention. Further, since the approaches described in the specification are generally mutually exclusive, there is no known motivation to combine any of them into a single presentation and analysis technique, as in the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the Federal Circuit has stated that when patentability turns on the question of obviousness, the obviousness determination "must be based on objective evidence of record" and that "this precedent has been reinforced in myriad decisions, and cannot be dispensed with." In re Lee, 277 F.3d 1338, 1343 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Moreover, the Federal Circuit has stated that "conclusory statements" by an examiner fail to adequately address the factual question of motivation, which is material to patentability and cannot be resolved "on subjective belief and unknown authority." Id. at 1343-1344.

In the final Office Action at page 3, the Examiner provides the following statements to prove motivation to combine Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst, with emphasis supplied: "[i]t would have been obvious to apply the teachings of APA to the system of Lauer because this provides the user different approaches to view the structured data . . . [i]t would have been obvious to apply the teachings of [Rabenhorst] to the system of Lauer for analysis purpose because the user can view different representations of the data at the same time; therefore performing general operations upon the data as disclosed by [Rabenhorst]."

Applicants submit that these statements are based on the type of "subjective belief and unknown authority" that the Federal Circuit has indicated provides insufficient support for an obviousness rejection. More specifically, the Examiner fails to identify any objective evidence of record which supports the proposed combination. Again, motivation to combine cannot come from the Applicants' own specification.

Second, Applicants assert that there is no reasonable expectation of success in achieving the present invention through a combination of Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst. For at least this reason, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. As mentioned above, despite the assertion in the outstanding final Office Action, Applicant does not believe that Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst are combinable since it is not clear how one would combine them given that the various approaches are mutually exclusive. There are no teachings in the cited combination as to how to coordinate data associated with two or more of the presentations, when desired, to enable a coordinated analysis of the data, as in the claimed invention.

Lastly, Applicants assert that the combination of Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 20. For at least this reason, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Again, assuming arguendo that Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst could be properly combined, which for at least the reasons above it is believed that they can not be properly combined, the combination fails to teach or suggest all claim elements in independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 20.

By way of example, the inventions of claims 1, 9, 12 and 20 recite “coordinating data associated with two or more of the presentations, when desired, to enable a coordinated analysis of the data.” This is explained, for example, at page 6 of the specification where it is stated that the invention not only preferably provides multiple viewers, but also combines and coordinates these viewers for analyzing events. For example, a user can very easily select a set of interesting events for a set of hosts and event types from the attribute viewer (e.g., summary viewing) by highlighting these hosts and event types, then use the plot viewer (e.g., graphical viewing) to see the relationship among the selected events. From the plot viewer, he can further select a small set of suspicious events by dragging a rubber-band, and displaying the original textual messages related to the selected events in the message viewer (e.g., raw data viewing). Further, by highlighting, coloring, or otherwise selecting events in one viewer, he can cause to have similarly modified presentations of these events in other viewers.

Assuming arguendo that it is proper to combine Lauer, the alleged APA, and Rabenhorst to yield a group of presentation techniques (which, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants do

not believe is proper), the cited combination is silent as to “coordinating data associated with two or more of the presentations, when desired, to enable a coordinated analysis of the data,” as expressly recited in independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 20. The final Office Action points to section 4 of Rabenhorst (“Integrated Interaction”) as teaching the claimed coordination feature. However, this section of Rabenhorst is very different than the claimed feature. As mentioned above, Rabenhorst is directed to a multidimensional data-based graphical tool referred to as Diamond. Thus, the presentations or visualizations that Diamond supports are limited to graphical presentations or visualizations, for example, see section 7 of Rabenhorst which names the graphical presentations or visualizations, e.g., scatter plots, snake plots, quad-wise plots, fractal foam plots, etc. The “integration” and “transformation” referred to in section 4 of Rabenhorst relates to the different graphical presentations or visualizations.

Thus, Rabenhorst does not teach or suggest presentation operations which are respectively able to: (i) provide a presentation of at least a portion of the non-fully structured data (e.g., raw data viewing); (ii) format at least a portion of the structured data to provide a presentation of a graphical representation of the at least a portion of structured data (e.g., graphical viewing); and (iii) format at least a portion of the structured data to provide a presentation of a summary representation of the at least a portion of structured data (e.g., summary viewing), such that data associated with two or more of the presentations is coordinated, when desired, to enable a coordinated analysis of the data, as in the claimed invention. The scatter plot of FIG. 3 of Rabenhorst, relied upon by the Examiner, is merely a graphical presentation, not a summary representation.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejections of independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 20.

The remainder of the claims rejected over the Lauer-alleged APA-Rabenhorst combination depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9 or 12, which are believed patentable for the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, the remaining claims define additional patentable subject matter in their own right. By way of example only, claims 3 and 14 recite the step/operation of modifying one or more parsing rules to affect the parsing operation. The portion of Lauer cited to

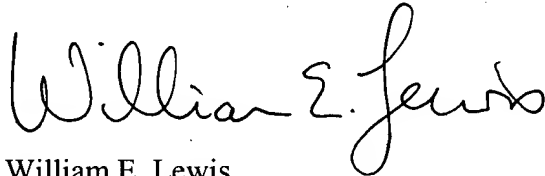
support this rejection (i.e., column 14, lines 50-52) deals with modifying a presentation, not modifying parsing rules. The final Office Action fails to address this deficiency.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejections of dependent claims 2-8, 10, 11 and 13-19.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-20 are believed to be patentable over the cited references. As such, the application is asserted to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

A Notice of Appeal is filed concurrent with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date: July 8, 2003

William E. Lewis  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 39,274  
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP  
90 Forest Avenue  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
(516) 759-2946